



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

February 24, 1969

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
c/o The Washington Post
1515 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your article in the Washington Post on February 22 regarding the hazards of leaded gasoline was, as usual, informative and constructive. One sentence, however, was not entirely correct:

"Until lead-based paints were restricted, there were many cases of brain damage to young children who had nibbled the paint from peeling walls and toys."

Despite the restrictions on the use of lead-based paint and the wider use of paint free of lead, lead poisoning in children is still a serious problem. Children in slum areas eat the old lead paint still on walls and woodwork, with resultant mental retardation and other undesirable consequences.

Some materials on this subject are enclosed. Since preparation of the Children's Bureau publication by Dr. Lin-Fu, new data have become available, particularly in Chicago and Boston, on the extent of the problem.

I know that if you deal with this subject again, you will want to be aware of the hazard to children that still results from old lead paint.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Clara G. Schiffer
Program Analyst
Division of Health Services

Enclosures (3)